

M72-135694M/SW **AFTER FINAL: EXPEDITED ACTION** 02410251aa
Amendment dated 07/12/2005 Reply to office action mailed 04/19/2005

REMARKS

Claims 2-17 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 2 is amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

The Examiner's indication that claims 3-6 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 7, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,055,592 to Smith in view U.S. Patent No. 6,417,911 to Kniazzeh et al. ("Kniazzeh"). Smith discloses a mouse system for authenticating a user via a smart card inserted into the mouse pointing device. In the prior art, as viewed by Smith, smart cards containing tokens for authenticating a user were read into a computer via a card reader. Smith provided for reading smart card authenticating tokens via the existing interface port for the mouse pointing device, by integrating a card reader into the mouse and converting the authenticating tokens into pointing device codes.

By contrast, the present invention uses an existing mouse housing and controller to provide an auxiliary storage medium (such as a flash card or a memory stick) to a personal computer, without requiring an additional interface device. The purpose of providing an auxiliary storage medium for the computer is nowhere present in Smith. Instead, the smart card as disclosed in Smith stores authenticating tokens to be read into the computer to validate the user. There is no suggestion in Smith of having the smart card serve as an auxiliary storage medium for the computer, writable as well as readable in accordance with the practice of computer storage devices. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify this aspect of the invention, by adding the limitation "bidirectional" to the data communication between the personal computer and the data storage medium.

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Another aspect of the invention is a door member that is part of the outer face of the casing body when closed. The door prevents dust from entering (page 3, lines 17-18), but also prevents the storage medium from deteriorating the operability of the mouse by protruding from the outer face of the casing body during use of the mouse (page 3, lines 18-20). The Examiner acknowledges that Smith does not disclose a door member as claimed, but cites Kniazzeh. Kniazzeh describes a photographic processing fluid system for an electronic printer. In particular the Examiner cites Fig. 6 of Kniazzeh, and more particularly a memory card door 624 for a memory card 28. However, upon examination of Fig. 6 of Kniazzeh it is apparent that there are no similarities to the present invention. The “door” in Kniazzeh is not a door but merely a protrusion that contains an opening. Thus there is no comparable feature in Kniazzeh to the claimed door. The door in the present invention “constitutes a part of the outer face of the casing body at the closed position.” Memory card door 624 is not part of the outer face of the casing body, but instead protrudes from the casing body. This is just the opposite of the teaching needed for the present invention. Therefore, Kniazzeh cannot provide the teaching missing from Smith, and the Examiner’s grounds of rejection by combining Smith and Kniazzeh is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,055,592 to Smith in view U.S. Patent No. 6,417,911 to Kniazzeh et al. (“Kniazzeh”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,672 to Buras, Jr. et al. (“Buras”). Since these claims depend from claims now believed to be in allowable form, it follows that claims 8-11 and 13 are in allowable form as well, and this ground of rejection is overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Kniazzeh and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,198,473 to Armstrong. Armstrong discloses the use of wireless, USB and PS/2 connections between the mouse and the computer. These varieties of connectivity are well known in the art. However, claims 15-17 depend from claim 2, which is believed to be in allowable form and therefore claims 15-17 are also allowable.

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The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Kniazzeh and Buras and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,807,749 to Ackeret. Ackeret discloses a moveable slider member for temporary storage of recording media. There is no suggestion in Ackeret that the recording media is to be used for either reading or writing data while inserted in the storage compartment. However, in any event, claim 12 is ultimately dependent upon claim 2, which is believed to be in allowable form, and therefore claim 12 is also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected new claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Kniazzeh as applied to claim 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,553 to Futamura. It is not disputed that auxiliary storage devices for reading and writing are old in the art. Futamura uses such a device in an embroidery data processing apparatus. However, this is not relevant to the issue in the case. The present invention provides an auxiliary read/write storage device conveniently and unobtrusively in a mouse casing and through an existing mouse interface. This combination is not suggested by the well known existence of auxiliary storage devices. Nor is it suggested by Smith, which provides only a mechanism for reading authentication data from a smart card. Smith does not suggest a bidirectional storage medium, nor does the well known auxiliary storage devices suggest connecting such devices through a mouse housing and controller. Further, since Smith's smart card does not suggest a bidirectional data storage medium there is no motivation to add to Smith the functionality of a computer data storage device, whether fixed, removable or auxiliary. Thus it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 18 is overcome.

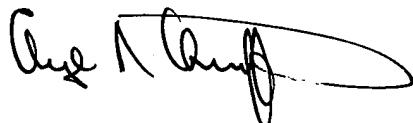
In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 2-18 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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